

# IDEA submission earns EMS NCO \$20,000 award

by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson  
Public Affairs

An NCO with the 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, is the recipient of \$20,639 for his contribution in the Air Force Innovative Development Employee Awareness Program.

Master Sgt. Steven Johnson, the aerospace ground equipment production control superintendent, recently had three IDEAs approved through the Air Force and is expected to receive three separate checks for the award amount.

The IDEA program encourages creative thinking and makes innovative ideas (especially those fostering continuous process improvement, economics and productivity) available to benefit the Air Force, according to the IDEA program directive.

The suggestion Sergeant Johnson submitted involved the aviation ground power units used on the MH-53 Pave Low helicopters. "He suggested that the electronic control units, gas turbine engines and battery chargers should be repaired versus being disposed of," said Brenda Smith, 16th Special Operations Wing IDEA/management analyst.

"These three items were not identified as Air Force use items in the base supply system, and they were coded as disposable," Sergeant Johnson said.

He knew that other related items were being repaired through the Army's depot system and thought the Air Force could do the same with these three items instead of disposing of them.

"We can go through three or four engines a year, and we were disposing of them all that time when we could've been getting them repaired," Sergeant Johnson said.

Although Sergeant Johnson will receive a substantial amount for his IDEA submission, the savings benefit to the Air Force is significantly greater. His three sugges-

**See AWARD, Page 3**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson

## Excellent visit

Col. Darren McDew, Installation Excellence Selection Board team member, arrives at the 16th Special Operations Wing Headquarters building Thursday, followed by other IESB team members. The team, headed by Brig. Gen. Bernard Skoch, arrived Wednesday to conduct an inspection of the base and is scheduled to depart today.

### News

#### Prescribed burn

A prescribed fire burn is scheduled to be conducted on Hurlburt Field in the near future. The burn will be approximately 500 acres just west of base housing and extending to range road 253. The burn will be conducted by the Eglin Natural Resources Division, the Hurlburt Field Fire Department and the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight. Exact date for the burn will be dependent upon weather conditions and determined at a later date.

### Installation Excellence

**Thanks to the following Installation Excellence Selection Board members for visiting Hurlburt Field:**

Brig. Gen. Bernard Skoch  
Col. Judith Fedder  
Col. Donald Alston  
Col. John Miller  
Col. Darren McDew  
Mr. Jayson Ilic

### Sports



#### AMXS meets 'royalty'

British Royal Air Force defeats Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

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## VIEWPOINTS

## Open Line

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*To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the **COMMANDO**. I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you, and perhaps improve their process. However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to [commando@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:commando@hurlburt.af.mil).*



**Col. Frank Kisner, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, renders a salute to the flag at a ceremony honoring Tech. Sgt. John Chapman, a Combat Controller who was killed in action.**

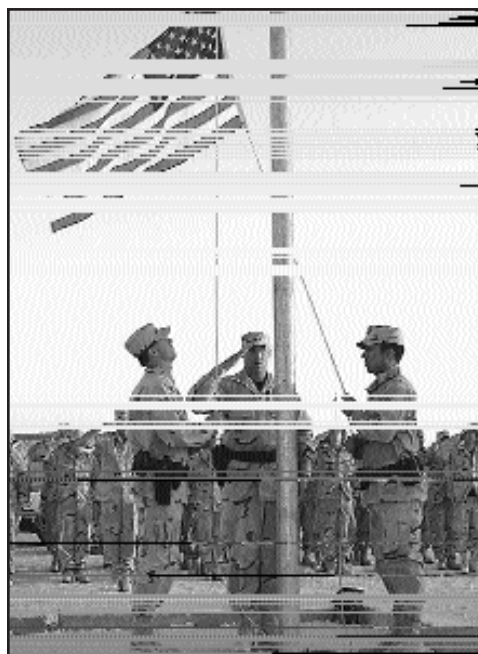
# Flag ceremony honors Combat Controller

**by Chief Master Sgt. Eddie Alicea**  
16th SOW command chief

On a beautiful desert evening in an undisclosed middle eastern country, the men and women of the Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component gathered to raise our nation's colors over Stronghold Chapman for the first time.

This small patch of land is named for Tech. Sgt. John Chapman, a combat controller who was killed in action in Eastern Afghanistan during Operation Anaconda. He made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom.

As part of the Stronghold Chapman buildup, 16th Special Operations Wing civil engineers poured concrete and installed flagpoles in the center of the compound. Once the concrete was set and lighting installed we formed up for this historic event. Special Ops Cops from the 16th and 193rd SOW



Courtesy photo

**A flag detail raises the flag at the site of the Stronghold Chapman buildup.**

marched into place and raised the flag as our National Anthem played – what an awesome, awesome feeling to see old glory take flight!

Col. Frank Kisner, 16th SOW and CJSOAC commander, spoke to the formation about the sacrifices made by Special Operators like Sergeant Chapman who gave their all in unselfish duty to their nation and our freedom. He also told the joint service troops about the intense focus the way ahead would require. It was indeed inspiring.

The ceremony was a fitting tribute to a fallen warrior that reinforced the values we hold so dear not only as warriors but also as American citizens. The sense of teamwork, pride and resolve was thick – everyone went away just a little more pumped up.

The flag raised at the ceremony was sent to Sergeant Chapman's wife as a symbol of her husband's legacy of honor, commitment, courage and as thanks from fellow service members for her sacrifice.

# Patriotic act reflects commitment to service

**by Lt. Col. Edward Keegan**  
18th CS commander

**KADENA AIR BASE, Japan** – Much is made in the press and popular culture about the generation that is currently coming of age to join the military – the generation that will replace us as the future of the Air Force.

The recurring theme is that they're not the service type, that their horizons are viewed through a lens of self-absorption, and that which isn't immediately gratifying to them is not noticed or purposefully ignored.

Much is also made of the older generation. They are the venerable ones, those who served a higher cause, and made America the embodiment of an ideal.

That generation includes my father-in-law, who recently visited us here on Okinawa, his first return here since passing through in 1965 on his way back to the United States from Vietnam.

He has long since retired from the Air Force, grown his remaining hair a little longer, and taken on full-time duties as a grandpa.

The salute he receives at the gate as a retired lieutenant colonel had become perfunctory, done so often for so long that he doesn't even seem to notice any more that he returns the gate guard's salute.

On a recent weekend, young met old at Kadena's Gate Two. A young airman, pulling his latest security forces augmentation tour, stepped up to the car when my wife and her parents arrived at the gate.

Then something unexpected happened. Rather than performing the expected rote courtesies, the airman bent down, looked past my wife to her father, and said, "Thank you for serving, sir."

In my entire career, I have never been so proud of anyone. With that deceptively simple act, the young airman reminded a retired lieutenant colonel, and this active-duty lieutenant colonel, exactly what true service is about.

That airman proved that the thread that binds the Air Force still exists across all the generations. He showed that our Air Force is, and will remain, in good hands, and America's greatest generation is not in the past, but is still to come.

I want to say to that young airman, "Thank you for serving, sir." (AFPN)



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## Address information

U.S. MAIL: **COMMANDO**,  
131 Bartley St. Ste. 326,  
Hurlburt Field, FL. 32544-5271  
E-MAIL: [commando@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:commando@hurlburt.af.mil)  
TELEPHONE: (850) 884-7464  
FAX: (850) 884-6093

## COMMANDO Editorial Staff:

**Col. Frank Kisner**  
Commander

**Capt. Thomas Knowles**  
Chief, Public Affairs

**Master Sgt. Darrell Brewer**  
NCOIC

**Tech. Sgt. William Seabrook Jr.**  
Chief, Internal Information

**Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson**  
Editor

**Airman 1st Class Sam Taylor**  
Staff writer

**Airman 1st Class Heidi Sawyer**  
Staff writer

**16th Communications Squadron**  
Photography

**Northwest Florida Daily News**  
Production support

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# News

## Marines slated to train at Eglin

by Mike Spaits  
AAC Environmental Public Affairs

**EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.** — The “few and the proud” won’t be so “few” around Northwest Florida if Navy plans to train on Eglin’s reservation pan out. A Marine Expeditionary Unit of 2,000 Marines could be hitting Eglin’s coastlines later this fall for a ten-day training period.

As part of the U.S. Navy’s Training Resources Strategy that identifies and coordinates DoD resources and facilities throughout the East Coast and the Gulf of Mexico to support Naval training needs, the U.S. Marine Corps has proposed conducting two ten-day MEU training scenarios per year here. The training would include a variety of activities such as amphibious landings, nighttime raids, mechanized raids, helicopter raids and the MEU landing which would involve moving all 2,000 troops from ship to shore.

The Marines would arrive with the U.S. Navy Amphibious Readiness Group consisting of about three ships positioned several miles offshore. The Marines come ashore in smaller landing craft such as a Landing Craft Air Cushion hovercraft, Zodiac rubber boats and Landing Craft Units like the ones used to storm the beaches of Normandy during World War II. Once ashore, they’ll disperse to several areas across the reservation. The purpose of their training is to prove they are fully trained and ready for combat. Training can occur at any time during the year but the Navy would avoid bringing its large ships into the Gulf of Mexico during the hurricane season, according to officials.

Admiral Robert Natter, commander of

U.S. Fleet Forces Command, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Lt. Gen. Martin Berndt, commander of the Marine Forces Atlantic, Maj. Gen. Thomas Jones, commanding general for USMC’s Training and Education Command, and Air Armament Center commander Maj. Gen. Robert Chedister briefed more than 100 local community members Feb. 1 on the proposed training.

The training is contingent upon the findings of an environmental assessment, which is presently being conducted, according to Jim Sirmans, director of the center’s environmental management directorate.

“We’re in the process of studying all of the proposed actions to determine what, if any, impacts to the human and natural environment would result if this training were conducted here,” said Mr. Sirmans.

If approved, the 2,000 Marines plan to come ashore on several areas across the 724-square mile reservation. Seven beachfronts have been identified on the mainland as possible landing areas including, Wynne Haven Beach, the Hurlburt Field barge loading dock, White Point, Hammock Point, Test Area A-22, Alaquan Point and East Bay Point.

Residents that could be most affected are those near Wynne Haven, where much of the LCAC traffic would take place. Commuters on U.S. Highway 98 could also experience short delays for five periods of 15 minutes and two periods of 30 minutes so the Marines could move their vehicles and people from the ships to the reservation.

Beach residents living near Eglin range’s landing points can anticipate noise from the LCAC’s and Amphibious Assault Vehicles as the vehicles travel

onto the reservation from the beach, as well as when the force returns back to the ships.

While the western part of Eglin will host many of the Marines, the eastern part of the range will be used, too. “Residents on the east can expect to hear noise in the form of small arms and bombing,” said General Chedister. State Hwy. 20 near Hammock Point could also be subject to periodic closings as Marines cross with their equipment to Eglin’s reservation.

Eglin is part of the Gulf Coast Range Complex that includes other military installations and ranges from Key West to New Orleans. “Cooperative range use in multiple ranges adds training flexibility and additional training resources and capabilities,” said Admiral Natter. “It also increases opportunities for joint training, and that’s significant since the Navy, Marines and Air Force assets frequently operate together in combat.”

According to General Chedister, Eglin can accommodate the Marines and the Navy’s training request.

“This is what we do here. We have bombing ranges, and we know how to do this type of training here. The Navy battle carrier groups already train here,” he said. “Nearly all the training that the Marines have asked to do has already been conducted here at some time. We completely support this idea and have already worked joint exercises here.

Officials expect to have the environmental studies completed sometime in early March according to Mr. Sirmans. “Once we’ve completed all the scientific work, we’ll publicize the findings of the assessment in the local newspapers, and give the public an opportunity to give us feedback.”

## Spotlight on ...



### Pearcea Witherspoon

**Rank/Duty Title:** Staff Sergeant/Pharmacy Journeyman  
**Organization:** 16th Medical Support Squadron

**Hometown:** Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Hobbies:** Cooking, working out, reading, shopping and going to school

#### Contribution to the mission:

Sergeant Witherspoon has contributed significantly as a team member of the 16th Medical Group Pharmacy by filling more than 16,000 new prescriptions and refills monthly.

She’s an enthusiastic volunteer, who participates in the Airmen Against Drunk Driving program, mentors for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and is a member of the Air Force Sergeant’s Association.

Sergeant Witherspoon continues to support base wide programs while ensuring she contributes to the success of the 16th Special Operations Wing’s mission.

**(Editor’s Note: The COMMANDO highlights airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job, and should receive day-to-day recognition. Supervisors can call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information on nominating an individual for the “Spotlight on...” column.)**

## AWARD, Continued from Page 1

tions will offer the Air Force approximately \$211,558 in first year savings, Mrs. Smith said.

The maximum award for each individual IDEA approval is \$10,000, but members can submit as many IDEAs as they like. Sergeant Johnson was awarded \$1,584 for one IDEA, \$10,000 for another and \$9,055 for the last one.

This is the largest award for an individual at Hurlburt Field in a few years, Mrs. Smith said.

The award money will be taxed before he receives his part, but Sergeant Johnson is still pretty pleased with the outcome of the IDEA program, he said. “I’ve submitted suggestions before and received smaller amounts like a couple of hundred, and a lot of times nothing at all, but I just kept pursuing it and eventually it paid off,” he said.

Sergeant Johnson, who’s planning to retire later this year, said this couldn’t have come at a better time.

A formal check is scheduled to be presented to him Wednesday during a brief ceremony.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson

**Master Sgt. Steve Johnson, 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, stands next to an aviation ground power unit that he submitted for the Innovative Development Employee Awareness program that awarded him more than \$20,000.**

# AIR FORCE NEWS

## Officials emphasize caution with APO addresses

by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** – World events have Air Force postal officials re-emphasizing the need for security when using the military mail system.

In particular, postal officials are concerned that airmen might not use an appropriate amount of discretion when distributing their overseas mailing addresses.

To reduce the vulnerability of using the mail system as a means to attack military people abroad, the Department of Defense officially suspended all “any servicemember”-type mail programs in late 2000. Those programs allowed the general public to address letters and care packages to “any servicemember,” and those items would in turn be delivered to military people serving overseas.

Those programs, according to DOD officials, were eliminated because they created an avenue to introduce biological, chemical or explosive materials into the military mail system, putting people in danger. At the same

time, the programs left the sources of such material virtually untraceable.

Air Force officials have identified other potential vulnerabilities in the system. Those include Web sites that ask for overseas mailing addresses, publicly available sign-up sheets for phone cards or other goods to be sent overseas, said Bob Eichholz, the director of Air Force postal policy. It also includes local community efforts to gather up homemade goods and materials that can be sent from anonymous individuals to an APO address provided by a well-meaning servicemember.

“These are all well-intended programs to support the military,” Mr. Eichholz said. “In the past those programs worked well, but today the same programs open us up to attacks from unknown sources. We have to take as many safeguards as we can to protect our mail system.”

Postal officials recommend that people be as prudent with their APO addresses as possible – limiting where they post their address and to whom they hand it out.

“We recommend ... that members not just give out and advertise their APO addresses,” Mr. Eichholz said.

“Keep it for your business purposes and for your correspondence, but don’t advertise it on a Web site.”

He said there are some Web sites asking for people’s addresses. On other Web sites, people leave their address to get a pen pal.

“We recommend people don’t do that,” Mr. Eichholz said. “You don’t know where that mail is coming from or who has access to that address. You need to safeguard your APO address a little bit.”

While the Air Force is emphasizing that people keep a short leash on their APO addresses, officials recognize that the American public wants to show support for its troops. Fortunately, said Mr. Eichholz, there are avenues where people can do just that without jeopardizing their security.

“First, they’ve got the electronic ‘any servicemember’ programs,” Mr. Eichholz said. “Also, you can support the United Services Organization and the Red Cross. Both organizations go overseas to help and support the troops. You can also help by supporting the various aid societies.” (AFPN)

## Teets: Space access vital to warfighting efforts

by Master Sgt. Scott Elliott  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** – America needs to redouble its efforts to make sure the nation has a vigorous and successful national security space program, the Defense Department’s executive agent for space said.

According to Peter Teets, undersecretary of the Air Force and director of the National Reconnaissance Office, access to space is better than ever before, but increased reliance on space-based assets means the nation must look to the next generation of evolved expendable launch vehicles.

Currently, the nation uses two families of EELVs: the Delta IV and Atlas V rockets.

“Both of these vehicles are more operationally responsive than any of their predecessors,” Undersecretary Teets said. “The fact that we have two vehicles gives us assurance that, in the event of a failure in one, we’ll be able to fly the other. That gives us some assured access (to space).”

The drawback to these EELVs, though, is the amount of time it takes to prepare them for launch. According to Undersecretary Teets, it can take weeks, even months, to erect a launch vehicle, mate the spacecraft to the vehicle, fuel it and check the systems.

“With the importance of our space systems to warfighting, we need to minimize that timeline,” he said.

To achieve that goal, the undersecretary said the nation must do two things:

develop new, smaller, EELVs and work with NASA on shared technology.

“We’re looking at bringing online some very operationally responsive, small EELVs that will be much lower-cost vehicles,” he said. “They would be the kind of vehicle you could erect in a day, bolt on the spacecraft and load with fuel (from a truck ... then launch in a matter of days, rather than weeks or months.

“There’s also a need for us to work with NASA to put forth a technology roadmap that will allow us to see the way forward for reusable launch systems,” he said.

The global positioning system satellites, space-based radar, the advanced extremely high frequency program and the space-based infrared systems are among the space-based systems that are integral to national security, the undersecretary said.

GPS is a satellite constellation that orbits the Earth. The satellites emit signals that, when gathered and triangulated by receivers, provide near-exact location information.

The space-based radar will provide military commanders with surface moving-target indications and high-resolution terrain information.

The advanced extremely high frequency program provides protected satellite communications. The system provides up to 4,000 simultaneous networks and up to 6,000 users per satellite.

“We do have assured access to space,” Undersecretary Teets said, “but ... it’s not assured access in a timeframe we’d like to have. We need to get ourselves on a path to have even more operationally responsive EELVs.” (AFPN)

## Look who’s talking: What do you consider to be the best line from any movie?



*“It’s the only thing I’m good at – ‘Boogie Nights.’”*

**Airman 1st Class  
Richard Hawkins**  
16th Component  
Maintenance Squadron



*“This is your life and it’s ending one minute at a time – ‘Fight Club.’”*

**Airman Basic  
Jed Lirio**  
16th Logistics  
Readiness Squadron



*“Be desireless, be excellent, be gone – ‘Tao of Steve.’”*

**Airman 1st Class  
Eric Lieuwen**  
16th Civil Engineer  
Squadron



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## 505th technician sustains fatal injuries

Hurlburt Field airman, Staff Sgt Julio R. Cordero III, died of injuries sustained when he lost control of his motorcycle on Dec. 18, 2002.

The 26 year old was a native of Egg Harbor Township New Jersey where he graduated from Egg Harbor Township High School in 1994.

Soon after graduation, he attended Gloucester County College in Sewell New Jersey for one year, before attending Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base in November of 1995.

Sergeant Cordero began his military career as a computer systems apprentice at Langley Air Force Base, Va., with the 1st Communications Squadron and quickly attained the status of electronic computer and switching systems journeyman.

In December of 2000, he was assigned to the 604th Air Support Operations Squadron, Camp

Red Cloud, Korea, aiding in the defense of South Korea. Sergeant Cordero then joined the 505th Systems Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fl., in December of 2001.

As a switching and data systems technician at Hurlburt Field, Sgt Cordero provided communications support to various command and control events, held both locally and at deployed locations. He was an active member of the squadron and participated in many base activities.

Sergeant Cordero will be remembered by his friends and co-workers for his love of life and his willingness to help others. He will truly be missed.

Anyone with a claim for or against Sergeant Cordero should contact Capt. Ryan C. Ameele at 881-9290.

## Some memories are not to be shared

by Tech. Sgt.

**Ginger Schreitmueller**

*Air Force Special Operations  
Command Public Affairs*

Digital cameras make it possible to capture a moment and instantly share it with family and friends around the world.

Unfortunately, that cyber-speed need to share the moment can also jeopardize operational security.

According to the Air Force Special Operations Command Operations Security manager, there are hundreds — if not thousands — of Internet sites filled with images that pose a threat to mission success.

"We're seeing an increasingly dangerous trend happening with photos and the Internet," said Mr. Frankie Gibbs. "You don't have to look hard to stumble across images of military significance posted on publicly-accessible Web sites."

The OPSEC manager said a recent case found countless images from a forward-deployed location posted to an Internet site.

"The person who posted the images just wanted his family to see what his basic living conditions were like at this site. It was a harmless gesture, which provoked a serious force protection issue," said Mr. Gibbs.

"The images themselves were not classified; a picture of a tent is just that — a picture of a tent. But, when you add additional information it pushes the

image into the sensitive and possibly classified arenas. Take the one image of a tent, add a caption that spells out where that tent is, add a few more images that show the entire camp layout and now you've put the mission, the site and the people in jeopardy."

Innocent as it may be, Mr. Gibbs said the potential exists for any image — or document —

Instead of deleting and notifying their security manager, they've passed it on to others thinking if it was on an unclassified system it must be cleared."

To avoid a potential security breach or compromise, Mr. Gibbs said people should remember some basic operational security rules.

"One piece of information may seem small if the jigsaw puzzle has thousands of pieces. But, you don't know how many of those other pieces the adversary has already pulled together," he said. "Before you do anything, keep in mind that you may be providing the final piece to our adversaries."

This is a reminder to think OPSEC, said the AFSOC commander.

"Security at the source is paramount," said Lt. Gen. Paul Hester, AFSOC commander. "Keeping an adversary from knowing what we can do, where we are going, who is deploying, or what our mission is limits the risk for those involved."

"SOF mission success often hinges on three essential elements — speed, surprise and security. We can't afford to have any aspect of our mission compromised or jeopardized because of security breeches," said the general.

As part of the Operational Security campaign, AFSOC and its unit have developed a Critical Information List — information that should not be



to be used by an adversary.

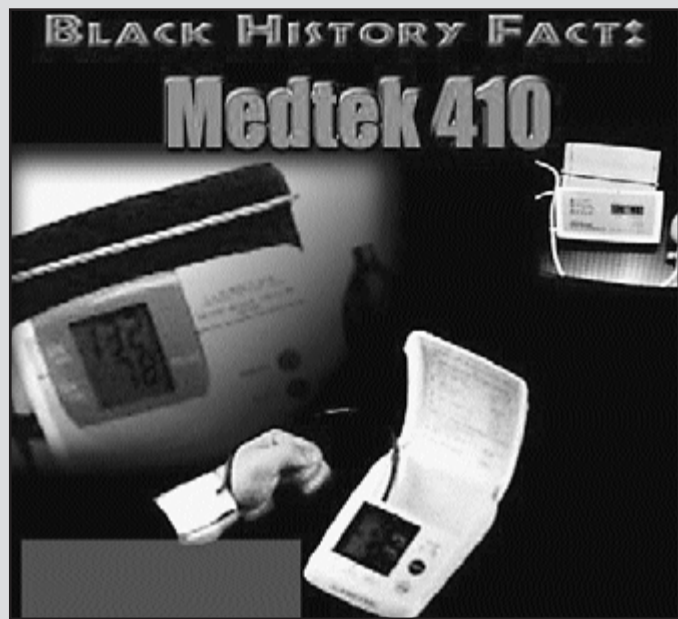
"Everyone should stop and think before they put anything in an e-mail, post it on the Web or send it to a friend or family member," he said. "You can't assume your mom is going to be the only one to access your personal Web page. There have been several instances where information from public Web sites was found in Al-Qeada camps."

Being OPSEC smart applies to the sender as well as the receiver, said Mr. Gibbs.

"If you receive an e-mail, photo or access a Web site that sets off your OPSEC warning bell, don't forward it!" he said. "I have had people forward photos and e-mails that contained obvious sensitive information.

**See OPSEC, Page 8**

## February is African American History Month



Courtesy graphic

### *Did you know?*

It took Michael Croslin nearly twenty years to perfect the Medtek 410, a computerized blood pressure measuring device. Before the Medtek 410, most blood pressure devices relied on the sound of blood pumping to determine blood pressure, but extraneous sounds sometimes disturbed the readings. Mr. Croslin's device relied on the motion of the blood, provided almost instantaneous readings, and could be easily calibrated digitally. Unlike many other black inventors, Mr. Croslin successfully created a company - Medtek Corporation - in 1978, and he directly distributed and profited from his invention.

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## February is National Dental Health Month

Hurlburt Field Dental Flight offers these tips for parents and caregivers:

- Take your child to see the dentist regularly, beginning by their first birthday.
- Prevent "baby bottle tooth decay" by putting only water in a child's naptime or bedtime bottle. Never use juice, kool-aid, soda pop, or sugar water.
- As soon as the first tooth appears, start cleaning the child's teeth with water and a gentle cloth.
- When two teeth begin to touch, start flossing. Look at their back teeth, too.
- Brush and floss your child's teeth daily until they can be taught to do this alone.
- The right amount of fluoride helps teeth be resistant to decay. Ask your dentist how to make sure this happens.
- Proper nutrition is important for healthy teeth and gums.
- Dental sealants are a thin protective barrier that shields teeth against decay. Ask your dentist if your child should have them.
- Mouth guards can protect teeth from trauma, which can occur when participating in sports.
- During the teen years, exposure to smokeless tobacco and cigarettes increases. Both can contribute to diseases in the mouth. Stress the importance of never using tobacco products.

## Aspiring journalist

The COMMANDO welcomes submissions from aspiring Hurlburt Field journalists who want to take a shot at writing a story.

The staff is always looking for stories concerning a base news or a human interest story highlighting a Hurlburt Field member.

To submit a story or a story idea, call the COMMANDO editor at 884-7464 or e-mail [commando@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:commando@hurlburt.af.mil).



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**OPSEC, Continued from Page 5**

discussed through any means other than secure communications. The information addresses specific and general facts about the command's intentions, capabilities, operations and activities.

Examples of the AFSOC Critical Information List include:

- Detailed information about the mission of a unit
- Details about deployment locations
- Personnel transactions that happen in large numbers (deployment processing)
- References to trends in morale or personnel problems
- Activation or alert of units
- Details about security procedures
- Be generic in referencing basic information.

"Don't say exactly when you are deploying, where you are going or how many others will be there," said Mr. Gibbs. "Often, people think because they've seen the name of a country in the news they can repeat it. Cable news networks air worldwide. Would you want to publicly confirm something that the media may be simply speculating on?"

Another seemingly harmless OPSEC breach is the use of the "out of office" notice on e-mail accounts.

"If you activate that feature on your e-mail it should be a generic statement saying you are currently out of the office and please contact this person at this number



if you need immediate assistance," said Mr. Gibbs. "I've seen out of office notes that tell me when the person left, why they are out of the office and when they will be back. A complete snapshot of information that violates Personnel and Operational Security."

Mr. Gibbs said it is important to remember OPSEC doesn't just apply to the active duty force.

"Everyone in AFSOC — our civilian force, our Guard and Reserve counterparts, and our family members — must support good OPSEC practices. Lives depend on it!"

According to Mr. Gibbs, the bottom line is simple.

"Whatever you say, whatever you repeat or whatever you share with one person — either in writing, in person or on the Internet — you've effectively shared with the world," said Mr. Gibbs. "If you aren't keeping OPSEC in mind you are risking the mission, and more importantly, risking lives. The basic rule is don't share what you don't want to see in print tomorrow and don't want to find in a cave once occupied by an adversary."

At forward locations, the clearance process begins with the deployed public affairs representative. Office of Special Investigations — or OSI — agents, security forces, OPSEC and information operations officers can also help clear information. Ultimately, the commander has the final "say" in what should and shouldn't be sent out.

As for digital cameras, AFSOC strongly discourages their use at forward locations. Official military photographers are assigned to these sites to document activity for historical and informational purposes. Prior to posting or releasing these images, a series of people will review and clear images for public dissemination.

For more information on OPSEC, contact your unit information operations office or OPSEC monitor. For more information on the security and policy review clearance, contact a public affairs representative.

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## FEATURE

*'Cubs' cross over into 'Boys'*

by Airman 1st Class Heidi Sawyer  
Public Affairs

**O**n Saturday, 12 Hurlburt Field Cub Scouts became Hurlburt Troop 509's newest Boy Scouts at a traditional scout bonfire crossing over ceremony held at the Soundside.

"They could have crossed over into any troop of their choice, but all 12 of our boys chose to cross over into Hurlburt's Troop 509," said Michelle Pratt, co-leader of the Webelos II Den Cub Scout Pack 509 of Hurlburt Field.

The first stage of the crossing over was the Flaming Scarf ceremony, which was performed by the Order of the Arrow Ceremonial Team from Troop 509. Each cub was given a scarf dipped in a secret solution, and then it was lit by a torch. If the cub was deemed worthy of becoming a Boy Scout, the scarf would not burn.

Next came the Arrow of Light ceremony, when the cubs received the highest honor in cub scouting.

The Arrow of Light patch was presented to each of the cub's parents, and then the parents pinned them on their sons. The cubs were also presented a plaque with a "hand-made flint tipped arrow and an engraved plate with the cub's name," Mrs. Pratt said.

Once the cubs were pinned, they crossed over into the Boy Scouts – literally. Upon reaching the other side of the small wooden bridge, the cub's epaulettes and scarves were replaced with the Boy Scout's.

"We're extremely proud that 100 percent of our 12 boys received the Arrow of Light Award," Mrs. Pratt said.

"Nationally only about 40 percent of Cub Scouts attain this award," she continued.

The ceremony was concluded with a special guest appearance by the Order of the Arrow Boy Scout Native American Dance Team. Led by Shirley Macaroy, the team performed three separate traditional dances for the new scouts.

The boys, who range from age 10 1/2 to 11 years of age, had several obstacles to overcome before being awarded the Arrow of Light.

First, the boys had to be active in Webelos Den for at least six months since completing the fourth grade, or since turning 10 years old. Secondly, the boys had to learn the Boy Scout Oath and the 12 Scout Laws.

In addition to memory work, the boys had to participate in various activities to earn a total of eight badges. Included in those eight badges was the Fitness badge, the Citizen badge and the Readyman badge, Mrs. Pratt said.

"Over the past two years, eight of the 12 boys earned all 20 activity badges," she said. "The four that didn't earn all 20, earned 16 or more."

The last requirement before earning the Arrow of Light Award was participation in one over-night campout, Mrs. Pratt explained.

The troop has been heavily involved in the community for the past two years as Webelos Scouts. The Den Leaders



Photo by Capt. Michael Pratt

**Robby Johnson receives his Boy Scout scarf and epaulettes from scout members and family during the Arrow of Light ceremony.**

have organized a large variety of events and community service projects to develop the scouts' service to those in need.

The scouts have participated in the base food drive, have given their time to help clean the Hurlburt Nature Trail, and sang Christmas carols at the Bob Hope Retirement and Widows home during the holiday season.

In addition to community service projects, the scouts have been taught valuable skills in auto mechanics, fire safety and first aid.

"Tyler Jette used the skills he learned in the water safety course for the Aquanaut Activity Badge at a swim party, when he assisted a child to safety," Mrs. Pratt said.

Tyler said he remembered the "Reach-Throw- and Go with assistance" slogan from the meeting the week before.

Participation in the Pinewood Derby allowed the scouts to apply the automotive skills they had learned, in order to build and race their own cars.

"We sincerely hope that the boys will be armed with the skills needed to be productive, moral and respectful members of our community," Mrs. Pratt said.

Although the cubs learn many life skills in the two years of participating, they engage in entertaining activities as well.

"The boys have visited the Snake Hut at the Army Ranger Camp, have gone on the Seablaster jet boat, have been to various sporting events in Pensacola, and spent a night on the U.S.S. Alabama Battleship," she said.

The Pratts have much appreciation for the parents of the cubs and the businesses in the community for making the Cub Scout program both, educational and entertaining.

In 1999, Michelle and her husband, Capt. Michael Pratt, Command and Control Battlelab, began working with their son's Wolf Den in Ohio. They moved to Hurlburt Field and have worked with the Pack since June of 2001.

The Cub Scouts hold meetings every night from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the Soundside. The Boy Scouts have theirs every Monday from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

"Hopefully the Hurlburt Scouting community (will participate) and see how much fun we really have," Mrs. Pratt said.



Photo by Belinda Shindle

**The Hurlburt Field Cub Scout Troop 509 holds 12 candles to represent each of the 12 Scout laws.**



# LIFESTYLE

## Military

### Special Tactics test

The next Physical Ability Stamina Test for retraining into Special Tactics is scheduled for Feb. 28 at 7 a.m. at the Hurlburt Field pool. Interested persons will be tested in a 20-meter underwater swim, a 500-meter surface swim, a 1.5-mile run and other callisthenic events, to include pull-ups, flutter kicks, push-ups and sit-ups. For more information or to sign up, contact Tech. Sgt. Brian Hicks at 884-3346 or [brian.hicks@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:brian.hicks@hurlburt.af.mil).

### FOCUS 56

All staff sergeant selects and technical sergeants assigned to Hurlburt Field are invited to join the next FOCUS 56 meeting Tuesday at 3 p.m. at the deployment control center auditorium. Meetings are the third Tuesday of every month. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Timothy Gray at 884-5199 or Staff Sgt. Mary Williams at 884-2308.

### Munitions in the workplace

The 16th Special Operations Wing, Weapons Safety office would like to remind people that the display of munitions (small arms, 20mm, 25mm, 40mm, etc.) are required to have a certificate of clearance for proof of inspection and verification that they are inert or empty. For more information, call 884-7496 or 884-2612.

### Enlisted-to-AFIT program

Nomination packages for those enlisted members wishing to complete resident Air Force Institute of Technology science, engineering or management graduate degrees must be mailed to Headquarters US Air Force/DPLLE by March 25. The program is limited to master's degree programs offered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. For more information, visit [www.AFIT.edu](http://www.AFIT.edu).

### Palace Chase

The Palace Chase program allows active-duty officers and airmen to voluntarily transfer from active military service to the Air Force Reserve. A briefing is scheduled for Wednesday in the military personnel flight's testing room at 2 p.m. For more information, call Master Sgt. John Tillie at 884-2656.

## Community

### 16th CPTS Policy Changes

Effective Monday, Financial Services customer counter hours changed from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Also, beginning March 1, routine printing of leave and earning statements will no longer be provided at the customer service counter. Exceptions may be made for those permanent change of station in-bounds or people who are on temporary duty to Hurlburt Field. All others will need to go to the DFAS Web site and open a My Pay account. For more information, call 884-4053.

### Name change

The US Air Force Weapons School Detachment 3, which is a Special Operations Force division here, will now be identified as the 14th Weapons Squadron. A formal ceremony will be held Feb. 21 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

### AFSA

Chapter 567, Air Force Sergeants Association will have a general membership meeting Wednesday at 3 p.m. at JR Rockers. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Bernadette Garces at 884-7633.

### 2002 annual awards banquet

In honor of military traditions, Hurlburt Field provides special recognition to individuals whose superior duty performance, dedication and efforts have led them to become top-notch professional military leaders. Feb. 21, at 6 p.m. in the Freedom Hanger, more than 130 people will be honored at the banquet.

The 16th Services Squadron's Soundside staff is catering the event. People are invited to contact unit first sergeants for reservations. Price for the meal is \$23, and sign-up sheets are due by noon today. Dress for military members is mess dress or semi-formal uniform, civilians should wear coat and tie attire. For more information, call Master Sgt. Mickey Wright at 884-4158.

### Commissary scholarship

The Scholarship for Military Children program deadline is Feb. 21. Applications are due to the nearest commissary by close of business. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with a qualified applicant. For more information or to apply visit the Web site at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com).

### Commissary closed

The Hurlburt Field Commissary will be closed Monday in observance of the President's Day holiday, but will re-open Tuesday at 9 a.m. and resuming normal hours of operation.

### Business expo

More than 100 health care professionals and supporting businesses will hold the Northwest Florida Business Expo today and Saturday at the Santa Rosa Mall at 10:15 a.m. The opening ceremony will feature the Hurlburt Field Honor Guard posting the colors. The event will feature the largest free health fair in the area with more than 50 different free health screenings. For more information visit the Web site at [www.paradiseexpos.com](http://www.paradiseexpos.com).

### HOSC luncheon

The monthly luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Soundside Club offering hors d'oeuvres with brownies or petit fours for desert. The cost for members is \$10.25 with gratuity included. This month's program is Silver/Crystal/Pewter Bingo. Childcare is available at the Hurlburt Field Child Development Center from 10:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$3 per hour, per child or \$5 per hour for two or more children. For more information, call Marsha Babe at 678-4473 or visit the Web site at [HOSCreservations@COX.net](mailto:HOSCreservations@COX.net).

### Hurlburt Field Chapel 884-7795



#### Catholic Mass

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.

*Confessions:* Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.

*Youth:* 5 p.m. Sunday

*Religious Education:*

September–May

#### Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (praise & worship),

11:30 a.m. (traditional),

12:45 p.m. (Gospel)

*Religious Education:* August–May

Youth and Singles groups available

**Jewish Services** (882-2111)

*Sabbath services:* Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center

*Havdallah services:* next-to-the-last Saturday of each month, 7 p.m., Chapel annex

**Muslim Services** (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

*Jumuah:* Friday, 12:45 p.m.

*Qur'ian:* Saturday, 6 p.m.

## At the movies

Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

### Hurlburt Field 884-7648

**Friday and Saturday** (PG-13) *iLord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, starring Elijah Wood and Sean Astin. The second in the Tolkien trilogy. Frodo the hobbit, braves terrible dangers in an attempt to have the evil ring destroyed.

**Saturday Matinee** at 2 p.m. (PG) *iThe Wild Thornberrys* (Animated film) Eliza and Debbie are two sisters who don't always get along. But their relationship is put to the test when Debbie's life is in danger, and Eliza might have to give up her power to talk to animals.

**Sunday** (PG-13) *iTwo Weeks Notice*, starring Sandra Bullock and Hugh Grant. George doesn't make a move without Lucy, his Chief Counsel at Wade Corp. It's not the job that's getting to her; it's George. After five years of calling the shots on everything, from his clothes to his divorce settlements, Lucy is calling it quits. Is it ever too late to say 'I love you'?

### Eglin 882-1066

**Friday** (PG-13) *iCatch Me If You Can*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks. Frank lived a life of crime using his abilities of forgery and escape. FBI agent, Shaye respected his abilities so much that he eventually worked out the deal that got out of prison after just five years.

**Saturday Matinee at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.** (G) *iPinocchio*, starring Roberto Benigni and Nicoletta Braschi. Pinocchio, the wooden puppet, has come to life and wants to become a real boy. Despite guidance from the Blue Fairy and the love of his father, Gepetto, his curious spirit leads him into one wild adventure after another.

**Sunday** (PG-13) *iAntwone Fisher*, starring Derek Luke and Denzel Washington. Antwone is ordered to see a Navy psychiatrist to learn to control the anger impulses that cause him to fight with shipmates. His therapy inspires him to seek out the family that abandoned him as a child.

*(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm scheduled playdates.)*



## Dental health month

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. The dental staff at the 16th Medical Operations Squadron will be at the family support center for the "Moms, Pops and Tots" class Tuesday and Wednesday at 10 a.m. There will also be tooth-related "goodie bags" at the dental clinic front desk and an informative table display in the medical group lobby throughout February.

## CCAF progress reports

The Air Force Virtual Education Center has student services available online. Students can create their own AFVEC account and monitor their Community College of the Air Force degree progress. Personalized pages can keep students up to date on local education center news and events. For more information, visit the AFVEC Web site at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>.

## Payment due

For those converting their VEAP benefits to the "MGIB in 2001," a payment of \$2,700 is due within 18 months of the day they signed the DD Form 2366, which had to have been signed no later than Oct. 31, 2001. Payments can be made by pay reduction in any amount, a lump sum payment or a combination of both. Failure to make the payment will result in the loss of benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs. For more information, call Sherry DelCastillo at 884-6003.

## OWCC Fast-Track Term

Enrollment is currently open at Okaloosa-Walton Community College for an eight-week Fast-Track term that begins Feb. 28. Students earn all the credit of a normal college term in a compressed period of time. Weekend classes and courses are available on both Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base. For more

information, visit [www.owcc.edu](http://www.owcc.edu) or contact the OWCC Hurlburt Field Center at 884-6296 or OWCC Eglin Air Force Base at 678-1717.

## OWCC Scholarships

Applications for Okaloosa-Walton Community College scholarship awards are due by March 28 for the 2003-2004 academic year. A scholarship booklet with an application for local scholarships is available at all OWCC locations and on the college's financial aid Web site at [www.owcc.edu/financialaid](http://www.owcc.edu/financialaid). Awards range from \$100 to \$1,200 and can be applied to tuition and fees. For more information, contact the OWCC Financial Aid Office at 729-5370.

## MOAA Scholarship

The Military Officers Association of America Base/Post Scholarship program is offering \$1,000 individual scholarship grants for the 2003-2004 academic year to 100 dependents of active-duty personnel. Applications are due by March 1 at noon in order to be eligible. Winners will be randomly selected from each of the seven services. MOAA membership is not required. To apply, visit the MOAA Web site at [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) and look for the "Educational Aid" listing on the opening page. For more information, e-mail the MOAA Educational Assistance department at [www.edassist@moaa.org](mailto:www.edassist@moaa.org).

tion. Attendees will learn ways to accelerate their rate of adjustment to a foreign environment. To make reservations, call the family support center at 884-5441.

## Kids Smooth Move

Kids Smooth Move is for children ages 6-12. Through a combination of fun activities & video, children discuss the new assignment, how to make new friends, stay in touch with current friends, deal with feelings and think of things they can do to prepare for their move. To make reservations, call the family support center at 884-5441.

## FSC classes

For more information on family support center classes or to sign up, call 884-5441.

**Transition Assistance Program** – Tuesday, 7:20 a.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, 7:30 a.m.

**Moms, Pops and Tots** – Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m.

**Kids Smooth Move** – Tuesday, 4 p.m.

**Culture Shock** – Friday, 11 a.m.

## Sports

## Special Olympics

The annual Okaloosa County Special Olympics Track and Field event is on Feb. 21 at Silver Sands School (on the corner of Holmes Blvd. and Wright Parkway). Huggers and greeters are needed from 8:45 a.m. till noon. Events are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. People can just show up to assist, no sign-ups are required.

## Classes

## Culture Shock

Culture Shock is a seminar for those who're anticipating a permanent change of station to a foreign loca-

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## SPORTS

# AMXS bows to British 'royalty,' 52-56

by Airman 1st Class Heidi Sawyer  
Public Affairs

The British Royal Air Force basketball team worked the 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron team's defense for a 56-52 win at the Hurlburt Field Main Fitness Center Feb. 3.

In the first four minutes of the game, AMXS had a difficult time sinking the shots as RAF defense gained control of the ball, which set up C. Fox for a three pointer.

However, two minutes later AMXS sank a three pointer closing the gap 10-9 in RAF's favor.

AMXS's defense holding strong, forced RAF to take the outside shots. However, D. Graham used his height to his advantage and towered over the defense for the field goal, with 11 minutes left on the clock.

As the clock ran out, both teams were aggressively pursuing the baskets. G. Armstrong drove through the AMXS' defense, went up for the shot and was awarded a foul shot by the referee. Armstrong missed the foul shot, sending the ball loose down court.

RAF switched gears, using more half-court and cross-court passing to force AMXS defense out of the key. RAF

closed in their defense, forcing AMXS to take outside shots because any attempts through the key were quickly rejected by RAF forwards.

AMXS seized the opportunity to close the gap by blocking a layup by Armstrong, making the score 25-28.

Although RAF team's intensity was a cause for several foul shots for AMXS in the first half, their game was solid as they brought in 30 points over AMXS' 28 points.

At the start of the second half, RAF concentrated on more ball handling and full-court presses, and the AMXS team became more aggressive in driving the key and playing man-to-man defense.

Although RAF had strong ball movement in the second half, there were some costly mistakes that resulted in more shots by AMXS. They took advantage of the loose balls and interceptions putting up several layups and field goals. On the other hand, after RAF was given possession of the ball, long court passes were made, and it became difficult for AMXS to recover.

Six minutes into the second half, the score was 41-35 in RAF's favor. But, as time went on, both teams became sloppy, lending way to double dribbling and traveling.

As the RAF offense slipped in their

accuracy, the AMXS defense grabbed more rebounds and gained 11 more points with seven minutes left on the clock.

The AMXS soon saw the rebellion of RAF when G. Evans took control of the ball twice in two minutes. On his first run, he dribbled through the defense until he was fouled when he attempted a layup. Missing the first, but making the second foul shot, he put a point on the board for RAF—the first in seven minutes of play.

With 39 seconds left on the clock, AMXS went to a man-to-man defense that allowed them to intercept a RAF ball. Going up for the shot, AMXS was fouled by Graham. Two shots were awarded, and both good. However, it wasn't good enough for the home team to come out on top.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson

**The 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron attempts to block a shot by British Royal Air Force, G. Armstrong.**

The clock ran out with the RAF visi-

tors taking the win.

## RAF gets a taste of American attitude on basketball court

by Airman 1st Class  
Heidi Sawyer  
Public Affairs

Led by Head Coach, Jon Jarvis, the British Royal Air Force arrived at Hurlburt Field Jan. 27 for a two-week spring training session.

For the past six years, the team has traveled from Akrotiri, Cyprus to the United States in order to gain playing experience with American teams.

"It's not about the actual winning of the game, but about getting that 'American attitude,'" Jarvis said. "Americans go, go, go."

Jarvis, who has headed the RAF team for the past four years, said the program had been up and running before he took over the team.

"I sort of inherited (the program)," Jarvis said. "We've been in contact with the (Hurlburt Field Main Fitness Center) staff for years. (Chris) Myers, in particular, has been very helpful," he continued.

Sports Military sponsors the program to relieve the men from their full-time jobs, but the trip is paid for entire-



**The RAF offense makes another layup in the first half.**

ly by the players.

"They enjoy the chance to come each year, so they don't mind spending the money," Jarvis said.

The coaches select the team, which is comprised of both new and old play-

ers, over the course of the year. The players are required to continue their military career during usual duty hours.

Unfortunately, the team lost a couple of its players this year due to "operational requirements." Jarvis said that he was surprised they were even able to come this year because of the political climate.

Because of the various military requirements and differing duty hours, Jarvis said they're not able to train in the gym day in and day out. "I must balance their time so they don't become too fatigued. They must stay mentally and physically sharp," he explained.

In order to prepare the team for basketball the American way, the coaches utilized the first week on base for running through various ball movements and plays.

The team's hard work paid off. In their first game against the undefeated Supply team, they were only down by three points when the time ran out.

"They come to train with our intramural and varsity teams because they just don't have this type of competition over there," said Chris Myers, Hurlburt

Field sports director. "Hurlburt Field helps give them that competitive edge," he continued.

Jarvis said he was impressed with the sportsmanship of the Hurlburt Field teams. "The game's intense, yet friendly. Hands across the board, we are treated very well here."

"Thanks to everyone for getting everything off the ground, and to the commander for letting us use the (base) facilities," Jarvis said.

RAF competes against the Army, Navy and the Air Force—from both American bases and those in the United Kingdom. The time spent at Hurlburt Field each year helps prepare the team for all sorts of playing styles.

"Danny Graham, who's the most improved player for the RAF team, didn't used to jump for the ball because he's a tall guy," Jarvis said. "Since he has been playing against Americans, he has been out-jumped by the little guys. Now, he wants the ball (so he jumps for it)," he continued.

The RAF finished their training session Friday with a win against SVS, giving RAF a 4-3 record.